



Press Release

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Historian Philip Mansel wins 2012 London Library Life in Literature Award sponsored by Heywood Hill

The 2012 London Library Life in Literature Award, sponsored by Mayfair bookshop Heywood Hill, has been awarded to Philip Mansel in recognition of the sustained quality of both his writing and scholarship throughout a distinguished career.

Launched in 2011 to revive the spirit of the former Heywood Hill Literary Prize, The London Library Life in Literature Award recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to literary life and the enjoyment of books. Awardees may be active as writers, editors, agents, publishers or other champions of literature, reading and writing, and this year receive £10,000 from Heywood Hill.

A panel of five judges, who shall remain anonymous, met in secret at Pratt's Club to select this year's winner. As in future years, the judge's deliberations had a theme. It is particularly fitting that in 2012, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year, the theme was monarchy and royal biography. After the winner was selected, and approved by Sir Tom Stoppard and the Duke of Devonshire, Philip Mansel received a telephone call from Sir Tom.

The winner, Philip Mansel, is a writer known for his profound understanding of court life, albeit in France. Mansel was presented with his Award by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at a dinner on Tuesday 1 May 2012 hosted by London Library President Sir Tom Stoppard in the Reading Room of The London Library.

Sir Tom Stoppard, President of The London Library, said 'We are honoured and delighted to have The Duchess of Cornwall, herself a passionate advocate for literature and literacy, here to present this Award for exemplary writing, not least to someone who has written so well about the subject of lives of a number of monarchs. Philip Mansel's rich, varied work bears the fruit of his scholarly approach and is a wonderfully engaging contribution to this important historical field.'

Nicky Dunne, Chairman of Heywood Hill, said 'Philip Mansel is a writer's writer who has dedicated his literary life to excellence. He is a worthy winner of this wonderful award. Heywood Hill exists to introduce readers and collectors to books of quality. We have no doubt that as an author Philip's mix of scholarship and readability mean that his always fascinating books will stand the test of time.'

Philip Mansel, on being presented with his Award, said 'I could never have written my books without The London Library's wonderful holdings on Europe and the Middle East. It is the best

lending library in Europe, with every diary or memoir on Paris and the French court, and every travel book about Constantinople and the Levant, for which you could wish. I am delighted and honoured to receive this award and I hope that The London Library and Heywood Hill continue to attract ever more readers, and readers as international as London itself. '

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Notes to Editors

About The London Library Life in Literature Award

The London Library Life in Literature Award, sponsored by Heywood Hill, recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to literature and the enjoyment of reading. The 2011 Award was given, jointly and posthumously, to Josephine Hart and Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor. An anonymous panel of expert judges, drawn together by The London Library and Heywood Hill, met in secret early in the year at Pratt's Club in St James's to choose a winner, subject to the approval of the President of the London Library (Sir Tom Stoppard) and the majority shareholder of Heywood Hill (the Duke of Devonshire). From 2012 winners receive a cheque for £10,000 at The London Library's Annual Literary Dinner in May.

About The London Library

The London Library, St James's Square, was founded in 1841 and is the world's largest independent lending library. Its broad and eclectic collection covers a vast number of subjects across the humanities, with books dating from the 16th Century to the latest print and digital resources. It has over one million volumes, stored on 15 miles of open-access shelves which may be freely browsed with over 97% available for loan.

With over 7000 current members, the Library has provided an invaluable resource to writers, researchers and avid readers for over 160 years. Past and present members include Charles Darwin, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Bruce Chatwin, Sebastian Faulks, Jeremy Paxman, Antonia Fraser and current president Sir Tom Stoppard. Membership of The London Library is open to all.

The Library is a registered charity and receives no government or statutory funding and is funded entirely by members' subscriptions, donations and bequests. In summer 2010 the Library completed the second phase of its historic refurbishment designed by Haworth Tompkins Architects.

For further information and images please contact Aimee Heuzenroeder, Senior Manager, Communications and Special Projects on 020 7766 4734 or email aimee.heuzenroeder@londonlibrary.co.uk

The London Library, 14 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LG.
Nearest underground: Piccadilly, Green Park
www.londonlibrary.co.uk

About Heywood Hill Ltd

Heywood Hill is an independent bookshop which has served the literary establishment for 76 years. Established in 1936 by Heywood Hill and his wife Anne, the bookshop is a remarkable survival. In December 1942, when Heywood was called up to join the British Army, Nancy Mitford and a small group of loyal helpers enabled the bookshop to remain open. Heywood Hill is now part-owned by Nancy Mitford's nephew, Stoker, 12th Duke of Devonshire.

Heywood Hill sells new, old and antiquarian books as well as producing catalogues on numerous themes. The emphasis remains *literature, history, architecture, biography* and *travel* as well as keeping a well-stocked *children's* department. In 2011 Heywood Hill was awarded a Royal Warrant by Her Majesty The Queen.

Heywood Hill offers a unique, personalised recommendation service to customers, helping to source any new, old or antiquarian book and posting books to locations across the world. Heywood Hill also offers subscription services, book restorations, valuations and other services.

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